



East Cowes Town Council

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Minutes of a meeting of **East Cowes Town Council** held at Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes on
Thursday 21st March 2019

Present:

Chair: Cllr Rann (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: Webster, Paler, Walker, Packham, Love

Town Clerk: S Chilton

Assistant Clerk: C Gale

Also present: 6 members of the public, Christine Bustin (Councillor representing Cowes Town Council)

Public Forum

- A member of the public raised concerns about the statistics published regarding the operation of the floating bridge asked if East Cowes Town Council would write to IWC and LEP
- A representative of the East Cowes Arts and Culture Group reported that they had been in touch with MP Bob Seely re the V&A project and will be contacting Osborne House to gain support.

Meeting opened at 6.30 p.m.

24/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Lloyd sent apologies due to being on holiday, Cllr Hendry sent apologies due to work commitments.

25/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest due to membership of the East Cowes Business Association, IW Councillor, East Cowes Community Partnership.

No other declarations of interests were received.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

26/19 WARMER PARISH PROJECT

The Clerk provided information about the Warmer Parish Project, run by the Footprint Trust, which helps around 4000 people per year save an average of £200 on their utility bills and lift them out of fuel poverty. Ray Harrington-Vail, from the Footprint Trust, advised that 25 households in the East Cowes area had been identified as needing help in the past year. A donation of £1700 would enable visits to 20 homes and regular progress reports would be provided.

Resolved: To award a grant of £1700 to the Footprint Trust

27/19 SAUNDERS WAY AND PLANS & FUNDING FOR THE EAST COWES ROAD NETWORK

Chris Ashman, Director of Regeneration, Isle of Wight Council did not attend.

Resolved: To invite Chris Ashman to a future meeting

28/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2019 were agreed as accurate and signed by the Deputy Mayor

29/19 HOVERCRAFT PROPELLER

Councillors considered possible sites for the propeller from the Hovercraft Museum. After some discussion options were suggested and voted on as follows:

Seafront near the Columbine Building - 2 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention

Saunders Way Roundabout- all in favour

Near the landslip on the seafront – 3 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention

GKN site – 2 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions

Red Funnel marshalling yard – 5 in favour

Bottom of Cambridge Road, opposite the existing propeller – 2 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention

Resolved: The Clerk to contact Lee Matthews, IW Council regarding the options put forward and report back to the next meeting

30/19 V & A COLUMBINE BUILDING PROPOSAL

The council considered the proposal of the East Cowes Arts and Culture group to use the Columbine Building as a V&A Gallery/Museum instead of the proposed housing. Councillors applauded this proposal as an innovative idea, and it was noted that a great deal of work had gone into developing the proposal. A statement from the Mayor supporting the proposal was read by Cllr Rann. Councillors agreed a letter of support should be sent.

Resolved: Clerk to send a letter of support to East Cowes Arts and Culture group.

31/19 FINANCES

8.1 To approve and agree payments as presented.

Resolved: All payments approved for payment

8.2 To ratify payments made by Direct Debit and BACS.

Resolved: All payments by Direct Debit and BACS ratified

32/19 MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The council considered membership of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils for 2019/20 or to re-join the IW Association of Local Councils based on information provided by the Clerk.

Resolved: To re-join IW Association of Local Councils for the year 2019/20

33/19 FLOATING BRIDGE UPDATE

Mark Downer, IWC Manager of the Floating Bridge, had responded to the council's request for more meaningful statistics and these together with the IW Council Leader's statement, made on 28th February, were discussed. Concerns were raised about the lack of a replacement bus service for school children when the bridge is not operating, the late notification when works are scheduled and that scheduled closures are not counted in the statistics. Christine Bustin (Cowes Town Councillor) stated that Cowes TC had already requested details of what contingency plans are in place when works start at St Mary's roundabout.

Resolved: The Clerk to write to Mark Downer and request statistics which show the actual physical operation of the bridge, discounting the jenny launch and any scheduled stoppages, with a copy sent to the LEP.

34/19 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

11.1 Town Clerk

The Clerk read out a letter from Michael Douse and Surfers Against Sewage regarding a beach clean on Saturday 6th April at 5.30pm.

A request had been received from the Friends of East Cowes to site some temporary commemorative raised flower beds on Town Council land.

Resolved: To defer the request from the Friends of East Cowes to the Facilities, Projects and Events Committee on 1st April

An invitation from Samantha O'Rourke (Island Roads) for councillors to attend an Assets Workshop on Wednesday 27th March 6-8 pm at St Christopher's House, Daish Way, Newport.

Resolved: Councillors Paler and Walker to attend and report to the council

11.2 Mayor's report

The Mayor opened the Red Funnel Well Road car park and had a site visit to the new marshalling area. The stained glass from the White Hart pub had been preserved with a view to inclusion in the planned community hub. Councillors have recently attended two training sessions with further training in planning and the Code of Conduct planned for the next financial year. The Mayor thanked the public for contributions to the Island Planning strategy. The council response has now been submitted.

11.3 IW Ward Councillors

Cllr Love reported that Stigwood Art has now rescued and is at Barton Manor. There has been uproar about the housing allocation for the island with the IW Council and the MP objecting to government. Cllr Love raised concerns that both schools in East Cowes are already full and need further capacity and special educational needs provision.

Cllr Love raised concerns that Hawthorn Meadows has no IWC representative.

Cllr Love has contacted Wightfibre about public concerns over the standard of work following installation of fibre optic cables.

11.4 Town Councillors

Cllr Packham reported that he met Cllr Ian Ward re the Esplanade car park. Cllr Ward will send photos and raise concerns with Island Roads and IW Council Parks and Gardens department.

Cllr Walker has attended a Waste Management Committee meeting which focussed on the reduce, re-use and recycle agenda of the Ellen McArthur trust.

35/19 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that it is in the public interest that the press and public are excluded (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 s 1(2)). The Chair duly moved to exclude the press and public for the following items.

The Council received information re development, council insurance and press reports

The Council considered quotes that had been received for the Esplanade Toilets refurbishment and the internal audit for 2019/20

Resolved: To accept the most competitive and efficient quotes received

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.39 p.m.